

Adult Corrections Caseload Forecasts Year in Review

JUNE 2005 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2006



STATE OF WASHINGTON • CASELOAD FORECAST COUNCIL

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CFC FORECAST YEAR IN REVIEW:

Adult Inmate

**June 2005 Through
February 2006**

The Year in Review provides a broad overview of the major forecast changes that have occurred over the past three forecast cycles. This report details changes from the June 2005 forecast through the February 2006 forecast.

Adult Inmate Forecast

The Adult Inmate forecast includes populations under the state's jurisdiction and housed in institutions. It includes the effects of changing demographics, crime rates, prison usage, violations of community custody, and policy changes (new legislations or initiatives).

June 2005 to November 2005 Forecast Changes

The November 2005 forecast is higher than the June 2005 forecast, primarily because of the following two reasons:

1. The assumption on community custody violator population was increased;
2. The forecast was adjusted upward for determinate plus sentences.

The higher assumption on community custody violator population is based on both the recent caseload trend and the fact that the number of high-risk offenders under community supervision is expected to increase in the current biennium. High-risk offenders are more likely than low-risk offenders to be sanctioned by the Department of Corrections (DOC) and become community custody violators.

The November 2005 forecast also incorporated the likely impact of the determinate plus sentence structure. Passed in 2001, 3ESSB 6151, created determinate plus sentences for certain sex offenders. The bill is expected to increase the DOC inmate caseload, but the magnitude of impact remains uncertain. The adjustment we made for the November forecast is based on limited data.

November 2005 to February 2006 Forecast Changes

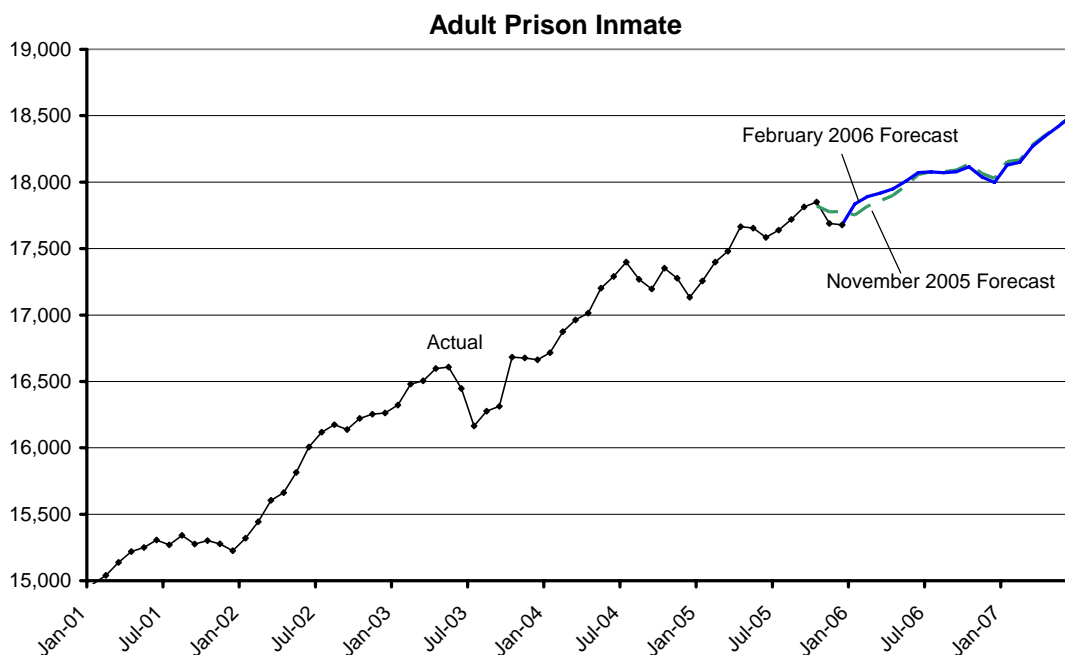
The February 2006 forecast is very close to the November 2005 forecast. The difference between these two forecasts in the second half of FY 2006 is mainly caused by an adjustment to the HB 1136 impact assumption. HB 1136 was passed in the 2005 legislative session, and it requires the Department of Corrections to work with the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) to establish an electronic monitoring program for low-risk offenders who violate terms of their community custody. Based on the latest information, DOC expects that the caseload-reduction effect of HB 1136 will be less for January through June of 2006 than was assumed in the November 2005 forecast.

Both the November 2005 forecast and the February 2006 forecast incorporate the likely impact of the determinate plus sentence structure¹. Determinant plus sentencing is expected to increase the DOC inmate caseload, but the magnitude of the impact remains uncertain. The adjustment we made for the most recent two forecasts is based on limited data.

Tracking the November 2005 Forecast

	Nov-05		Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance
Oct-05	17,820	17,850	30
Nov-05	17,776	17,689	-87
Dec-05	17,780	17,678	-102

Adult Inmate Forecast: February 2006 Forecast Compared to November 2005 Forecast



¹ Determinate plus sentences were created by 3ESSB 6151, which was passed in the 2001 legislative session. Determinate plus sentences are only applicable to certain sex offenders who meet the conditions enumerated in that bill.

**Adult Inmate Forecast:
February 2006 Forecast Compared to June and November 2005 Forecasts**

Forecast Comparisons										Caseload Change		
		Actual	Jun 05	Nov 05	Feb 06	Change from Nov 05	% Change	Change from Jun 05	% Change	Fiscal Year	Annual Change	% Change
Adult Inmate Forecast	FY2002	15,462										
	FY2003	16,344								02-03	882	5.7%
	FY2004	16,736								03-04	392	2.4%
	FY2005	17,381								04-05	644	3.9%
	FY2006		17,754	17,825	17,839	13	0.1%	84	0.5%	05-06	458	2.6%
	FY2007		18,028	18,196	18,182	-14	-0.1%	154	0.9%	06-07	344	1.9%

CFC FORECAST YEAR IN REVIEW: Community Supervision

June 2005 Through
February 2006

The Year in Review provides a broad overview of the major forecast changes that have occurred over the past three forecast cycles. This report details changes from the June 2005 forecast through the February 2006 forecast.

Contact-Required Community Supervision Forecast

Contact-required cases are adults who have been convicted of crime(s), who are actively supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC), and have requirements to maintain contact with DOC.

June 2005 to November 2005 Forecast Changes

The November 2005 forecast is higher than the June 2005 forecast mainly because the step-adjustment for SSB 5256 was re-adjusted. This bill, SSB 5256, was passed in the 2005 legislative session and conforms misdemeanor supervision to felony supervision under ESSB 5990 (passed in 2003). By the end of September 2005, fewer SSB 5256 offenders had been terminated than had originally been assumed in the June 2005 forecast. Furthermore, there appear to be very few offenders eligible for SSB 5256 left in DOC's system.

Both the June 2005 forecast and the November 2005 forecast incorporate the expected impact of ESHB 1402. This bill, ESHB 1402, authorizes DOC to supervise eligible out-of-state misdemeanants transferring to Washington under the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision. Initially, very little information was available to project the impact of this bill in the June forecast. Now that more data is available on actual out-of-state misdemeanants supervised, the impact of the bill has been adjusted down for the November 2005 forecast.

November 2005 to February 2006 Forecast Changes

The February 2006 forecast is the same as the November 2005 forecast. We expect the contact-required caseload to be relatively stable during this biennium.

The decline of the contact-required caseload since July 2005 is mainly driven by SSB 5256, passed in the 2005 legislative session. This bill conforms misdemeanor supervision to felony supervision under ESSB 5990 (passed in 2003). DOC terminated certain low-risk misdemeanants as required by this bill.

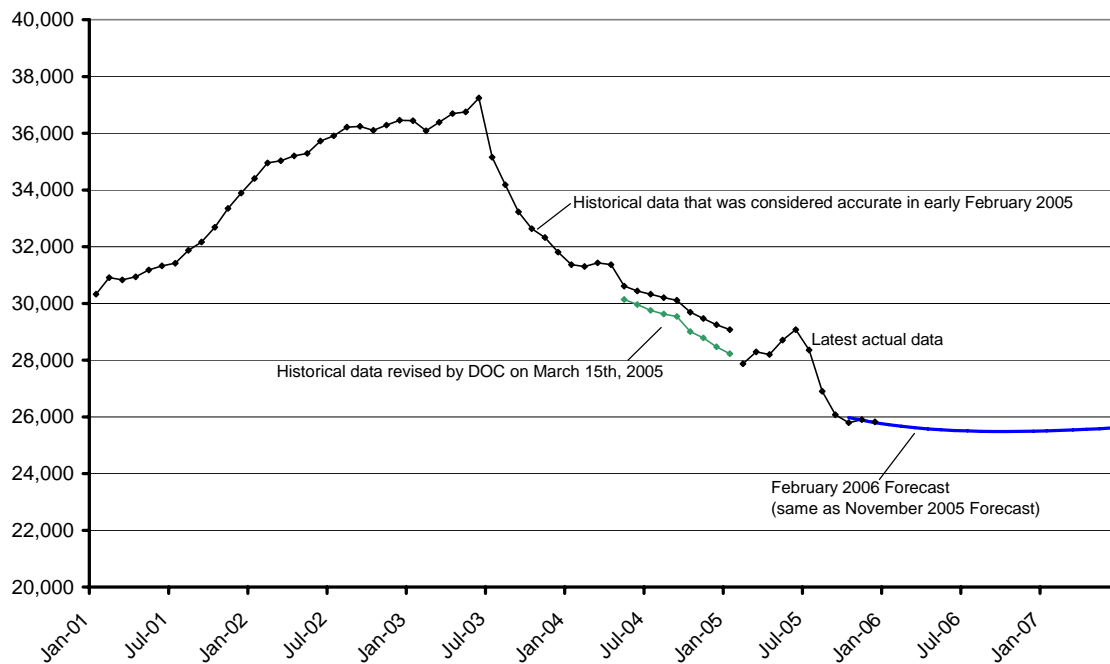
The sharp decline since July 2003 is mainly driven by the implementation of ESSB 5990 of the 2003 legislative session. DOC is required to terminate thousands of low-risk offenders who meet the conditions enumerated in that bill.

Tracking the November 2005 Forecast

	Nov-05			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Oct-05	25,974	25,798	-176	-0.7%
Nov-05	25,880	25,906	26	0.1%
Dec-05	25,798	25,827	29	0.1%

Contact-Required Community Supervision Forecast: February 2006 Forecast Compared to November 2005 Forecast

Contact-Required Community Supervision



**Community Supervision Forecast:
February 2006 Forecast Compared to June and November 2005 Forecasts**

Forecast Comparisons										Caseload Change		
		Actual	Jun 05	Nov 05	Feb 06	Change from Nov 05	% Change	Change from Jun 05	% Change	Fiscal Year	Annual Change	% Change
Community Supervision Forecast	FY2002	33,831										
	FY2003	36,399								02-03	2,568	7.6%
	FY2004	N/A								03-04	N/A	N/A
	FY2005	N/A								04-05	N/A	N/A
	FY2006		25,337	25,739	25,727	-12	0.0%	390	1.5%	05-06	N/A	N/A
	FY2007		25,387	25,523	25,523	0	0.0%	136	0.5%	06-07	-203	-0.8%

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